

Patent Docket No. 3553-4020

~~goods or services.~~**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled all previously pending claims without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to the cancelled claims. By this Amendment, Applicants have added claims 129-144.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the features of claims 129-144. With regard to independent claim 129, Applicants submit that the cited references fail to disclose, among other things, the claimed combination of: receiving the claimed conditional purchase offer and payment identifier, and subsequently querying a database of seller-defined rules which are provided by a plurality of sellers to determine if the goods or services are to be sold to the customer for the customer-defined price, where the seller-defined rules include prices which are concealed from the customer. The cited references also clearly fail to disclose or suggest deterring the customer from submitting a second conditional purchase offer for the goods or services. Independent structural claims 136 and 143, and Beauregard claim 144 are also clearly distinguishable from the cited references for at least these reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.



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AUTHORIZATION

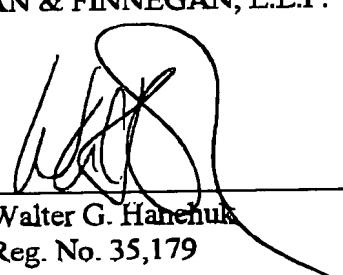
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-4500, Order No. 3553-4020. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 27, 1999

By:


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